

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 18, 2006

The Honorable Mitch Landrieu  
Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Capitol Annex Building  
1051 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Lieutenant Governor Landrieu,

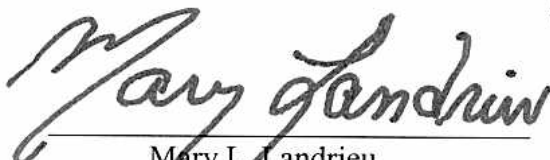
We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved \$28.5 million to fund the Louisiana Tourism Marketing Program. Tourism, as the state's second largest industry, provides essential revenue for state and local coffers in addition to providing thousands of tourism-related jobs for Louisiana residents. Prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the tourism industry had a \$9.9 billion economic impact in the state, employed 126,000 Louisiana workers, and generated \$600 million in state and local taxes. When Louisiana loses visitors, these thousands of tourism-related jobs, as well as our small businesses, are in jeopardy. Louisiana's Congressional Delegation has worked diligently to secure these recovery dollars - rebuilding Louisiana's tourism industry is critical to our economic recovery.

As we marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina last month, and now mark the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita this month, it is important to show the world that Louisiana is indeed "back to business." We are aware that immediately following Hurricane Katrina, you established a strategic plan, *Louisiana Rebirth: Restoring the Soul of America*, to guide the recovery of Louisiana's tourism and cultural industries. As part of this plan, an accountability panel was established to ensure that recovery dollars deliver results, and that no recovery dollars are wasted on political misuse or abuse. We applaud these efforts to provide our tourism industry with a roadmap and to put in safeguards to ensure that Federal recovery dollars are spent wisely.

We look forward to continuing our work together to rebuild Louisiana's tourism industry following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

With warmest regards, we are

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



David Vitter  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor, State of Louisiana  
Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman, Louisiana Recovery Authority